

Message Text

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15
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: WHERE ARE THE RED GUARDS OF YESTERYEAR?

REF: HONG KONG 9752

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAO'S INITIAL REVIEW OF RED GUARDS AT TIEN AN MEN WAS MARKED BY OBLIGATORY RALLIES AND MEDIA ATTENTION. THE THE EMPHASIS WAS PLACED SQUARELY ON THE CURRENT SOLID-CITIZEN STATUS OF FOREMER RED GUARDS, NOT ON THEIR PAST EXPLOITS IN "BOMBARDING THE HEADQUARTERS." END SUMMARY.

2. THE AUGUST 18 PEOPLE'S DAILY DEVOTED APPROXIMATELY THREE OF ITS SIX PAGES TO ARTICLES AND PICTURES COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSAY OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S FIRST REVIEW OF THE RED GUARDS AT TIEN AN MEN. (THE LEAD ARTICLE WAS ALSO RUN BY KWANGMING DAILY AND BROADCAST ON PEKING RADIO.) IN PEKING, SHANGHAI AND TIENTSIN RALLIES OR FORUMS OF CHINA YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERS, RED GUARDS, AND "REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH" WERE REPORTEDLY HELD TO MARK THE OCCASION. THESE WERE ATTENDED BY UNNAMED RESPONSIBLE PERSONS OF THE RESPECTIVE MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES. FROM THE PUBLISHED ACCOUNT, THESE WERE TAME AFFAIRS. WE HAVE OBSERVED NO SLOGANS, BANNERS OR MEETINGS HAILING THE ANNIVERSARY.

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3. FIRST PERSON RECOLLECTIONS OF THE GLORIOUS DAY WHEN MAO

EMERGED AT TIEN AN MEN WEARING RED GUARD INSIGNIA HAVE A
WISTFUL AIR. ONE PIECE BY A FORMER RED GUARD, NOW A FACTORY
WORKER IN SHENSI, SAYS IT ALL: "WHO HAS SEEN THE AUTUMN IN
PEKING SO BEAUTIFUL...I THOUGHT OF LEAPING, OF SOARING, OF SINGING,
OF DANCING. I FELT THAT THE SKY WAS MORE BLUE, THE FLAG STILL REDDER;
TIEN AN MEN WAS INCOMPARABLY MAGNIFICENT, THE RED SUN
INCOMPARABLY BRILLIANT...AUGUST 18 TEN YEARS AGO, THE MOST
BLISSFUL OF DAYS, WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN IN MY LIFETIME." FOR MOST
OF THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT, AUGUST 18 DOUBTLESS IS REMEMBERED
AS A HIGH POINT IN THEIR NOW-MUNDANE LIVES.

4. BUT PRIMARY EMPHASIS IN THE COMMEMORATIVE ARTICLES IS PLACED
NOT ON THE PAST BUT RATHER ON THE CURRENT POSITIONS AND ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF THESE REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSORS. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY PHOTO
SPREAD DEPICTS RED GUARDS OF YESTERYEAR ENGAGED IN THE ENTIRE
SPECTRUM OF COMMENDABLE REVOLUTIONARY PURSUITS: TSINGHUA
UNIVERSITY PARTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO LED THE STRUGGLE
AGAINST TENG; COMMUNE PARTY LEADERS WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED
NEW HOMES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE; WORKERS AT THE KAILUAN MINES
AND TACHING OIL FIELDS; A LEADER OF A CANTON MILITARY REGION
PLA UNIT; AND A BAREFOOT DOCTOR.
GATES

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